Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 14 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 15 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Thursday 14 Dec 2023 at 02:05 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for showers Thursday, also for patchy rain from mid-Friday turning heavier for the weekend, but lowering for the detail of worst of conditions from weekend.

Headline for Thursday 14 Dec 2023: By day scattered showers and brighter spells with severe wind chill at height in strong to gale summit winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 14 Dec 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Light snow	Heavy snow showers	Light snow	Light snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability					
40%	40%	50%	30%	30%	30%

Forecast for Thursday 14 Dec 2023

Weather: Bright spells and showers through the day, with heaviest and most frequent showers affecting western ranges and falling as snow down to around 800m, possible blizzard conditions at times.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% in west, 80% in east

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain showers, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases lowering to 500m at times, but mainly in the west as showers push through. Almost nil visibility in blizzard conditions.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Thursday 14 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	38/44 W	38/44 SW	38/47 W	37/46 W	35/44 W	34/43 SW	33/42 SW
900	35/41 W	35/40 SW	36/44 W	34/43 W	33/42 W	32/41 SW	31/40 SW
600	21/27 W	22/28 SW	23/32 SW	23/32 SW	22/31 SW	20/30 SW	20/30 SW
300	1/26 W	3/28 W	6/31 W	5/30 W	5/29 W	5/28 SW	6/29 SW
Glen	7/20 W	11/26 SW	12/27 SW	11/25 SW	9/23 SW	11/25 SW	12/27 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	0/-9	0/-9	-0/-9	-0/-9	-0/-8	-0/-8	0/-8
900	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7
600	4/-2	3/-3	3/-3	3/-3	3/-3	3/-3	3/-2
300	5/4	5/4	5/4	5/3	5/3	5/3	5/3
Glen	8/5	7/4	8/5	8/5	8/5	8/5	8/5
Freezing Level*	1000m	900m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Difficult conditions at height, especially in west as summit gales bring snow showers and severe windchill.

Forecast for Friday 15 Dec 2023

Weather: Mainly dry start with some limited brighter spells. Cloud thickening and lowering to bring periods of light rain from late morning, but falling initially as snow on the tops. Rain becoming more persistent and heavier in the west during the afternoon, but turning increasingly patchy later in the day.

Maximum wind: West to southwest winds increasing mean 35-40mph from mid-afternoon with gusts reaching 60mph across most exposed ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% becoming 10% from midday

Low cloud and visibility: Good becoming moderate or poor in rain or showers, very poor within cloud with bases occasionally lowering 500m at first, becoming widespread from mid-day.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 2 Celsius increasing 9 Celsius for the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 1 Celsius increasing 4 Celsius by mid-afternoon
Freezing level: 1000m lifting 1600m

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